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WOMEN'S MOVEMENT IN HAI-NAN

The women's movement in Hainan Island has contributed much to the revolutionary struggle. It had its beginnings as an anti-Japanese movement, and enrolled a majority of the women of the rural areas in various activities. The larger number of the women were engaged in such activities as providing food, bedding, and clothing for the soldiery of the patriotic resistance. They also carried on nursing activities.

A considerable number enrolled in the army and took military training. The women's corps was directly under the control of the Central Guerrilla Command. At one time they numbered 20 percent of the total guerrilla forces, and it is estimated that about 5,000 were killed in the service. They formed a column to guard forts, radio stations, and rear area installations. The leader of the column was a peasant woman named A Hsiang (Ueda: 12830, 13667). Their fighting spirit was as good as that of the men.

Now that the resistance movement has merged into the revolutionary activities against the reactionary RMT government, there are large units of home guards and police recruited from these former women units of the guerrilla resistance forces.

No small credit for the success both of the anti-Japanese resistance and of the present revolutionary movement in Hainan must be attributed to the activities of the women's movement.

A famous long-time leader of the women's movement in Hainan is Liu Ch'iu-chu (840, 8187, 9900) who entered the Communist Party in 1927. In the days of the so-called "great revolution" she was an ardent and faithful women's leader. After the failure of that early movement she went into seclusion for a time. During the Japanese occupation she was very active in the resistance and twice escaped traps laid for her. By this process she established a reputation for miraculous power among the simple island folk.

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She is very popular with the peasants of the island, being herself of peasant origin.

Miss Liu (Mrs Lin Mao-sung) was the first woman member of the People's Government in Hai-nan.

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